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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,914	03/25/2004	Clifton Lind	988.1071	8059
35236	7590	10/03/2006	EXAMINER	
THE CULBERTSON GROUP, P.C. 1114 LOST CREEK BLVD. SUITE 420 AUSTIN, TX 78746			COBURN, CORBETT B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

NT

**Advisory Action  
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/808,914

Applicant(s)

LIND ET AL.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

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--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 September 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires \_\_\_\_\_ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

**AMENDMENTS**

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because  
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);  
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);  
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or  
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).


4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).  
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.  
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).  
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.  
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:  
Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) rejected: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

**AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE**

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).  
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).  
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER**

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:  
See attached.  
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
13. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Corbett B. Coburn  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3714  
CORBETT B. COBURN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments filed 20 September 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach a back office system for assigning a respective game play record (i.e., a bingo card) from the matched card set to the player station in response to receiving a player request communication. Clearly, this is incorrect. Players do not bring their own bingo cards. The player's computer doesn't generate a bingo card. If it did, then the back office couldn't tell when the card won. Absolutely the only way the prior art can possibly work is that the back office system provides the cards to the player.
3. Examiner is unaware of any bingo game that works in a different manner – in all cases, the player receives his card from a central source. It is easy to see why this is the case. It cuts down on fraud. It keeps duplicate cards out of circulation, thus keeping the bingo operator from having to pay duplicate prizes. It allows the operator to know who is in the game.
4. Applicant argues that Bingomania does not allow the player to choose between manual daub and auto-daub. As Examiner has repeatedly pointed out the player selects between the two methods of daubing by selecting the number of cards to be played.
5. Applicant suggests that because just because those of ordinary skill may have the ability to do something, it does not make doing it obvious. Examiner agrees. However, such a statement is not applicable to this case. In this case, we can look at the combination of references in two ways – both of which lead to a conclusion of obviousness.

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6. As pointed out in the rejection, Bingomania teaches both manual and auto-daubing.

Combined with Soltesz, we have a complete system that teaches both manual and auto-daubing.

The one feature we lack is a button to allow a player to choose auto-daubing for fewer than three cards or turn off auto-daubing altogether. There are a number of reasons such a button would be obvious. It would add to player convenience to be able to choose auto-daubing for any number of cards. It would give players greater control of the game by allowing the player to choose between manual and auto-daubing no matter how many cards were played. It would allow the player to automate a manual process. Having a selector button would add flexibility to the system.

7. Taking Soltesz as a base reference, allowing a player to select auto-daubing would be obvious because it automates a manual process. Furthermore, Bingomania teaches auto-daubing. Adding a selector button would have been obvious for the reasons outlined above.

### *Conclusion*

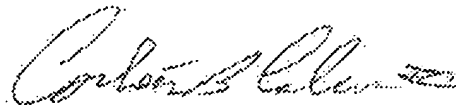
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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